

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /032 R

DRAFTED BY CU/ARTS:BGERSTEIN:LF

APPROVED BY CU/ARTS:GECORIDEN

CU/ARTS:BNSTEPHENS

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

CU/WE:DSCHERR; USIA/IEU:RCOONROD

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R 132029Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 117958

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SCUL

SUBJECT: JOINT PRODUCTION OF "PORGY AND BESS"

REF: ROME 7609

1. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WITH THE PROJECTED PROJECT IS THE APPARENT GAP BETWEEN FUNDS REQUIRED AND CU/ARTS FUNDS AVAILABLE. THERE ARE APPLICABLE GENERAL PRECEPTS:

(A) DEPT. DOES NOT PAY TRANSOCEANIC TRAVEL AS GENERAL POLICY WITH EXCEPTION OF GROUPS TOURING USSR UNDER EXCHANGES AGREEMENT.

(B) DEPT. DOES NOT FUND TRAVEL PERFORMERS FROM U.S. TO APPEAR IN ONE COUNTRY OR ONE FESTIVAL. RARE EXCEPTIONS BOTH POLICIES MADE UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT NEITHER FUNDS OR CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST IN THIS CASE.

2. DEPT. HAD HOPED LEARN OF APPROPRIATE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY OR COMMUNITY CHOIR WHICH WAS PLANNING PRIVATE EUROPEAN TOUR AND WHICH COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO EXTEND DATES TO COVER
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"PORGY AND BESS" PROJECT. WE KNOW OF NO SPECIFIC GROUPS

AT THIS TIME HOWEVER. MAYNARD GROUP DOES NOT SEEM
APPROPRIATE BASED ON AVAILABLE INFO BUT WE ARE CHECKING

FURTHER.

3. IF ROME OPERA COVERED TRANSPORTATION, COULD POST
ARRANGE HOME HOSPITALITY FOR STUDENTS? COULD MEAL MONEY
BE PAID OUT OF GOE? DEPT.MIGHT MAKE MODEST CONTRIBUTION
TOWARD PROJECT BUT COULD NOT PROVIDE PER DIEM FOR FIFTY
PEOPLE FOR THIRTY DAYS WHICH EVEN AT DOLS 20 PER DAY
EACH WOULD COME TO DOLS 30,000.

4. CU/ARTS HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE CRITICAL SUPPORT
FOR AN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAM IN PORTUGAL DURING
THE PAST YEAR BY SUPPLYING MODEST SUPPLEMENTS AND
FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF
U.S. PERFORMERS. WE HOPE TO DO THE SAME THING IN ITALY
BUT NO NEW FUNDING IS AVAILABLE. WE WILL FIND SOME FUNDS
BY PARING COMMITMENTS ELSEWHERE. LETTER FOLLOWS GIVING
SOME DETAILS ON PORTUGESE PROGRAM AS EXAMPLE OF POSSIBIL-
ITIES. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, THEATER (DRAMA)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE117958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BGERSTEIN:LF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760186-0369
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760556/aaaabwkq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 7609
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <24 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT PRODUCTION OF "PORGY AND BESS"
TAGS: SCUL
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006